

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FAREWELL TO CONGRESSMAN
TONY P. HALL

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I am both pleased and saddened to be in a position to present these remarks about TONY HALL. Pleased because I have had the opportunity to serve with TONY for the past four years, and pleased because I know he will do so much to help the hungry and the less fortunate in his new job; yet saddened because his guiding hand and steadfast effort on behalf of those less fortunate will be missed when he leaves Congress.

Because TONY's reputation precedes him, TONY was one Member I was especially looking forward to knowing when I arrived in the House. Three times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Congressman TONY P. HALL has been the leading advocate in Congress for hunger relief programs and improving international human rights conditions. Over the last twenty-four years, there is not a single Member of this great body who has contributed more to those who cannot stand up for themselves. Without TONY here, we will all need to pull together to make sure that those less fortunate are not left behind.

TONY has worked actively to improve human rights conditions around the world, especially in the Philippines, East Timor, Paraguay, South Korea, Romania, and the former Soviet Union. In 2000, he introduced legislation to stop importing "conflict diamonds" that are mined in regions of Sierra Leone under rebel control. In 1999, he was the leader in Congress calling for the United States to pay its back dues to the United Nations.

TONY HALL's record on hunger issues is unparalleled in Congress. TONY was a founding member of the Select Committee on Hunger and served as its chairman from 1989 until it was abolished in 1993. He has been an outspoken advocate for fighting domestic and international hunger and he has initiated legislation enacted into law to fight hunger-related diseases in developing nations. He has visited numerous poverty-stricken and war-torn regions of the world. He was the sponsor of a successful 1990 emergency measure to assist state Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs and legislation to establish a clearinghouse to promote gleaning to provide poor people with food. TONY has worked to promote microenterprise to reduce joblessness.

When the Hunger Committee was abolished, TONY fasted for three weeks to draw attention to the needs of hungry people in the United States and around the world.

Rep. HALL was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998, 1999, and 2001 for his humanitarian and hunger-related work. For his hunger legislation and for his proposal for a Humanitarian Summit in the Horn of Africa,

Mr. HALL and the Hunger Committee received the 1992 Silver World Food Day Medal from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Mr. HALL is a recipient of the United States Committee for UNICEF 1995 Children's Legislative Advocate Award, U.S. AID Presidential End Hunger Award, 1992 Oxfam America Partners Award, Bread for the World Distinguished Service Against Hunger Award, and NCAA Silver Anniversary Award.

Despite the number of awards he has won, TONY HALL's impact can be felt not by the number of plaques and awards in his office, but by the number of men, women and children around the world who have seen their lives brightened, and their sense of hope renewed because of his actions.

TONY was recently nominated by the President to serve as our ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the world's preeminent hunger fighting organization. While I am disappointed that I will no longer have the pleasure of serving with TONY in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am reassured by the fact that somebody of his talent and heart will be representing our Nation in an effort to fight hunger around the world.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
DR. JAMES DAVID FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, Chaplain Jim Ford had a positive influence on every member of the House of Representatives, and I was privileged to know him and grateful to have his friendship for nine years. As Chaplain, Jim had the rare quality of being able to relate to everyone regardless of religious affiliation or background. As a friend, he was there for anyone needing help through life's inevitable ups or downs. As a family man, his loving and accomplished wife and children are a testament. As a human being, he had an exuberant zest for living and caring, for adventure, for knowledge, and for jokes.

When I had surgery for prostate cancer, Jim visited me in the hospital. He was a survivor himself, and his humor and his irrepressible positive attitude filled the room. My wife and I were fortunate to have traveled with Jim and Marcy in the Middle East and in Europe, where we had the benefit of Jim's companionship and his vast store of historical anecdotes. He had an impressive understanding of the world's three great religions centered in Jerusalem. Although Jim was modest about his eloquent daily prayers in the House of Representatives, it is the wish of his many colleagues and friends that they should be published. Chaplain Ford's prayers covering 21 years are a powerful commentary on the spirit of the people's House through times of tranquility and turmoil. They are prayers for all

people in all seasons and form a rich legacy for generations to come.

PRELUDE:

Mrs. Judy Snopek, Pianist.

INVOCATION:

The Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain, United States House of Representatives.

REVEREND COUGHLIN: Members and staff and friends, today we gather to remember, memorialize and celebrate the life and service of Dr. James David Ford as Chaplain to the House of Representatives for over 21 years. I wish also to acknowledge the Parliamentarian, Charlie Johnson, and Reverend Ron Christian, both very close friends to Dr. Ford, for their efforts to assure this event would happen after the cancellation of the memorial service first planned for September 11. That tragic event affected all of us and only deepened the pain of our loss of Jim Ford when terrorism robbed us even of the freedom to assemble and grieve as well as thank God for this gifted pastor, counselor and friend of so many here in the House which he loved so much and which was honored by his years of faith-filled service. We are indebted also to the Honorable Jeff Trandahl and the Clerk's office for their detailed arrangements for today.

As the first Lutheran pastor to serve in the House as Chaplain, Dr. Ford was rooted in the Word, and so I thought it only fitting to begin with a short reading from Saint Paul:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all, will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us who will condemn. It is Christ Jesus who died, rather was raised, who also is at the right hand of God and indeed intercedes for us all. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Languish or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor present things nor future things, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So as we begin, let us call to memory first impressions, wisdom sayings, poignant moments and compassion and joyful laughter which he usually left with us.

Let us pray for Jim Ford.

Lord God, you chose our brother James to serve your people as a minister and so share the joys and burdens of their lives. Look with mercy on him and give him the just reward of his labors. Continue to console his family and all those he loved. Grant him now the fullness of life promised to those who preach your good news, your holy gospel. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen. We would like now to hear from a good friend.

REMARKS:

The Honorable Charles W. Johnson III, Parliamentarian, United States House of Representatives

CHARLIE JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today as Jim's friend representing the staff. As Jim used to say, "Johnson, you never were invited to be a public speaker because you couldn't if you were." He said, "All you can do is this." "This" means whisper and "this" means hit the mute button at the same time.

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